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Tuesday 8 February, 2005



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NEWS SEARCH

## MARSHALS LAND ET FUGITIVES

  
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February 07, 2005

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U.S. Marshals joined forces with Mexican federales in locating three Tyler fugitives suspected in a 1999 murder.

Hersain Valdovinos Gomez, 25, was the first of the capital murder suspects extradited back to Tyler. He arrived at the Smith County Jail at about 4 a.m. on Saturday.

Five U.S. marshals, three permanently stationed in Mexico and two who rotate service in the country, acted as liaisons for Tyler-based marshals, who contacted them with information on the possible location of the suspects, deputy marshals said on Monday.

The deputy marshals in Mexico began working with federales, who set up surveillance on a home where they believed Gomez was residing. They soon found out that the suspect had been arrested for local burglary charges and was being held in a Mexican jail.

A U.S. provisional warrant was issued on Gomez for his formal extradition back to Smith County. He was arrested for the Tyler charge on June 16 in Morelia Michoacan, Mexico, according to a prepared statement by the U.S. Marshals Service in Tyler.

U.S. marshals did not disseminate the information about his capture, wary of tipping off murder suspects Susana Arroyo and her brother Saul Arroyo - initially believed to be hiding out with Gomez, deputy marshals said.

Gomez was put on an airplane at about 10 p.m. Friday and arrived in Dallas just after midnight on Saturday. Two Tyler deputy marshals escorted the man to the Smith County Jail, where he was booked in at about 4 a.m.

Gomez, also known as "Demon," has been charged with the July 1, 1999 capital murder of 18-year-old Adam Carrier.

Smith County District Attorney Matt Bingham said Saturday that Gomez was not answering questions posed by investigators, invoking his Fifth Amendment right to remain silent.

According to earlier reports, Carrier and a friend, Aaron Daniel Warren, 18, were visiting East Texas with Carrier's mother.

On the night of the murder, they reportedly met six Hispanics at Kilo Land Park in Henderson County and tried to purchase marijuana.

The group left in two vehicles and went to a remote wooded location in the 200 block of Skidmore Lane, where the groups separated and Carrier's tire was cut.

Bingham said as Carrier tried to change the flat tire, Gomez picked up the spare and beat him over the head. Carrier tried to fight back but Ms.

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Arroyo began hitting him repeatedly with the tire tool.

Investigators contend Gomez and Ms. Arroyo were the masterminds behind the killing.

Four other accomplices received sentences in the slaying but according to court testimony, it was Ms. Arroyo, 23, and Gomez who allegedly dragged Carrier into the woods, stabbed him multiple times and cut his throat.

As investigators began to close in on Gomez and Ms. Arroyo, the pair fled Smith County.

Crystal Garcia, who was 14 at the time, pleaded guilty to capital murder and was sentenced to 20 years as a juvenile. Armando Hinojosa, Michael Thompson and Christina Martinez were all sentenced to life in prison for their roles in Carrier's death.

Gomez's brother, Benito, was charged with two counts of hindering apprehension after he told police his brother and Ms. Arroyo showed up at his house the day Carrier was killed. He admitted to aiding the fugitives in fleeing to Mexico.

At a press conference last month, Bingham announced both Gomez and Arroyo were in the custody of Mexican officials and were being held in a prison in Mexico City awaiting possible extradition.

Ms. Arroyo is expected to be extradited back to Tyler but officials have not said when that could take place.

Bingham had to promise the Mexican authorities he would not seek the death penalty against Gomez or Ms. Arroyo, he said. He said extraditing Gomez was a long process but he thanked all the state and federal agencies involved for their help.

Annually, U.S. marshals arrest more than 50 percent of all federal fugitives and serve more federal warrants than all other federal law enforcement agencies combined. They also assist state and local agencies in the apprehension of fugitives and extradite them back to the United States when detained in foreign countries, according to the prepared statement.

Staff Writer Kenneth Dean contributed to this report.

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